



# THE GLOBAL MESSENGER

SPECIAL EDITION: TSUNAMI RESPONSE

Tuesday, January 4, 2005



## **PRESIDENT HONORS TSUNAMI VICTIMS WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF**

“As a mark of respect for the victims of the Indian Ocean Earthquake and the resulting Tsunamis, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and on all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions from Monday, January 3, 2005, until Friday, January 7, 2005. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.”

-- From President Bush's proclamation, 1/1/05

## **HELPING TSUNAMI VICTIMS REBUILD THEIR LIVES**

“These people have to rebuild their homes, their businesses, rebuild their lives. And so this is going to be a multiyear effort and the United States is in for it. ... President Bush has made it clear that the United States will be in the forefront of this, as we have been in almost every similar disaster in recent history or, frankly, in long-term history.”

--Secretary of State Powell, on CBS's Face the Nation, 1/2/05

## **KEY QUOTE**

“As we begin the New Year, our prayers go out to the people who have lost so much to the recent series of disasters in the Indian Ocean region. The past few days have brought loss and grief to the world that is beyond our comprehension. America will continue to stand with the affected governments to bring aid to those in need. Together the world will cope with the loss and prevail over this destruction.”

-- President Bush, 12/31/04

## **KEY POINTS**

*From remarks by President Bush, with former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Clinton, 1/3/05*

- Presidents Bush, George H.W. Bush, and Clinton, have come together to express America's sympathy for the victims of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunamis.
- President Bush has asked the former Presidents to head a nationwide charitable fundraising effort.
- Presidents Clinton and Bush will ask Americans to donate directly to reliable charities already providing help to tsunami victims. Many of these organizations have dispatched experts to the disaster area, and have an in-depth understanding of the resources needed.
- Presidents Clinton and Bush will be speaking about the countless ways individuals and businesses can support this urgent cause.
- For more information about how to make a donation, please visit the USA Freedom Corps Web site at [www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov).

## **U.S. CONTRIBUTES TO RELIEF EFFORTS**

*From a statement by President Bush, 12/31/04*

President Bush has committed \$350 million to fund the U.S. portion of the tsunami relief effort. Contributions will continue to be revised as the full effects of the tragedy become clearer.

The United States has already provided an initial, substantial effort through existing emergency response resources, the formation of a core group, and military assets.

To help coordinate the massive relief effort, U.S. disaster response officials are on the ground, and have established a Support Center in Thailand. More than 20 patrol and cargo aircraft have been made available to assess the disaster and deliver relief supplies.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Global Communications

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